

Proposal for Region 2 Strategy for Addressing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares

March 23, 2016

- In response to national concerns around drinking water contamination with lead, there is increased focus in potential school drinking water contamination. More school districts are interested (but cautious) in sampling their outlets and turning to NJDEP and EPA R2 for guidance. Responding to these requests individually is important, but OSP and other program staff may be able to assist with outreach, education, and follow-up to this technical assistance to help expand our reach and get ahead of requests for assistance.
- Proposing to assemble a team consisting of staff in municipal drinking water, water compliance and the 3Ts program, lead experts, environmental justice, public affairs, sampling and analysis, and others as necessary.
- Team's goal will be to **develop and implement a regional strategy to help schools and child cares reduce lead in drinking water**. The timeline for developing a strategy is two months, with initial phases of implementation immediately following.
- Objectives will include:
 - Send a letter to all superintendents in NJ and NY with information on lead in drinking water and lead health effects, actions they can take, resources and guidance available, and suggestions for managing communication to the school community.
 - Discuss and document best practices, including critical elements of the 3Ts Program (3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares: Training, Testing, Telling) and how to best maximize those elements for as many schools as possible.
 - Train additional staff, including in CEPD to implement 3Ts program in PR and VI.
 - Use knowledge of school districts and blood lead rates to target districts for outreach and possible sampling assistance. Mobilize any possible funding sources to assist these districts with sampling.
 - Develop outreach plan to educate relevant partners, including school boards, PTAs, school nurses, BOCES, local health departments, Sustainable Jersey for Schools, NY Clean, Green and Healthy Schools Program, etc.
 - Assign staff to remain in contact with districts as they develop a remediation plan and ensure they implement and complete upgrades to their drinking water outlets as necessary.
- Once a strategy is in place, the team should sustain itself in such a way that outreach has been completed, targeted districts have been assisted, and team members only need to provide continued technical assistance and follow-up with districts as necessary.